

Applicant: G. Triantopoulos et al.
Application Serial No.: 10/654,638
Filing Date: September 4, 2003
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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A ground connector capable of being crimped, comprising:
 - a deformable generally U-Shaped conductive body comprising a pair of legs projecting from said body, said legs defining a central slot configured for receiving a bus bar therein;
 - a plurality of teeth on at least one of said legs projecting into said slot to establish an electrical connection between the bus bar and the body; and at least one aperture to receive at least one conductor therein so that when said body is deformed to initiate a partial crimp between said body and the conductor within said aperture, said central slot is slightly opened to receive the bus bar therein.
2. (Previously Presented) The ground connector of claim 1 wherein the body at a closed end of the central slot has a pair of outwardly angled cut outs to allow the body to deform into a secure crimp connection to the bus bar.
3. (Original) The ground connector of claim 1 wherein said at least one aperture includes access openings extending through a lower surface of the body, to thereby permit deformation of the body at said aperture and a secure crimp connection of the body around said conductor.
4. (Amended) The ground connector of claim 1 wherein said aperture comprises sections of different shapes and sizes to accommodate ~~one or~~ said conductors of various ranges.

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5. (Original) The ground connector of claim 1, wherein said pair of legs are located at opposite ends of the body.
6. (Previously Presented) The ground connector of claim 1, wherein said at least one aperture extends through said body at location opposite said pair of legs.
7. (Amended) A ground connector capable of being crimped, comprising:
 - a generally U-Shaped body of deformably conductive material having a pair of open ended slots, each of said slot being defined by opposed, spaced sidewalls and a closed end; each of said slots being configured to receive a respective bus bar therein;
 - a plurality of teeth extending on each of said side walls of said slots to establish electrical crimp connection between the respective bus bars and the body; and
 - a plurality of apertures extending through said body, wherein at least one of said apertures being on opposite sides of at least one of said slots to respectively receive at least one conductor therein so that when said body is deformed to initiate a partial crimp between the body and the conductor within said at least one aperture, said open end ended slots are slightly opened to receive the respective bus bars therein.
8. (Original) The ground connector of claim 7 wherein at least one of said slots has a pair of outwardly angled cut outs to allow deformation of the body for crimp connection to the bus bars.
9. (Amended) The ground connector of claim 7 wherein said at least one ~~of~~ said apertures includes an access opening to permit deformation of the body at ~~one~~ ~~of~~ said at least one aperture for crimp connection to at least one said conductor.

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14. (Previously Presented) A method for crimping a connector to at least one bus bar and at least one conductor, comprising the steps of:

providing a connector including a deformable body comprising a pair of legs defining a central slot, each leg having teeth extending into the slot, said body having at least one channel extending through said body, the channel being adapted to receive a conductor therein;

placing at least one conductor in the channel;

deforming the body to initiate a partial crimp between the body and the conductor placed in said channel thereby causing said central slot to be slightly opened;

inserting a bus bar into said slightly opened central slot of the body after the conductor is partially crimped;

continuing to deform the conductor until the conductor is tightly crimped within the channel in the body and said bus bar is crimped between the legs.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the crimp connection is initiated by a crimping tool.

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16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the crimping tool includes a pair of spaced apart dies.
17. (Original) The method of claim 16, further including the steps of:
placing the body of the connector between the pair of spaced apart dies; and
moving the dies towards opposite ends of the body to deform the connector therebetween.